

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 9, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that a federal district court judge in San Diego sentenced defendant Jose Alberto Luna to serve twenty-one months in federal custody, following his conviction for selling counterfeit currency on three occasions to undercover operatives of the United States Secret Service. A federal jury convicted Luna on November 20, 2003.

Judge M. James Lorenz sentenced Luna to the maximum possible sentence under the federal sentencing guidelines. In sentencing Luna, the court found that Luna had lied at trial to the jury and post-trial to the U.S. Probation Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne K. Perry, who handled the prosecution of Luna, the evidence at trial established that Luna sold counterfeit currency to an informant in the Encanto area on two occasions and on a third occasion to an undercover Secret Service agent.

Luna, a resident of San Diego, also faces deportation as a consequence of this conviction.

DEFENDANT

JOSE ALBERTO LUNA

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 472 (Sale of Counterfeit Currency)

Penalties: Up to 20 years' custody; \$250,000 fine

AGENCY

United States Secret Service